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Final Reflection ISTC 301

If I were at an interview for a potential job and the principal asked why I wanted to know if there was any technology in the classroom; I would explain that I feel it is important to incorporate technology in my lessons and introduce students to differing technology. In today’s society technology is everywhere in our hands (smart phones), the grocery store (mobile check outs), and in our homes (T.V., computers, &gaming systems). This technology is moving so quickly that by the time you get accustomed to one aspect another is on the market. The children of today are growing up in a world where if they are not prepared and introduced to this technology early they will be at a great disadvantage.

Inside the classroom is an excellent way to introduce children to technology. Students can learn how to work hardware and software in computer classes, incorporate technology in projects and presentations, and use educational gaming software to develop, practice, and maintain content and skills. As an educator I feel it is important that I am prepared to use all technological materials in my classroom, and also build lesson plans and activities that utilize these technologies. My students deserve to be engaged and stimulated in my lessons, and today this is how we begin to reach these students. Technology is all around them, it is what they relate to, and it’s a true real world connection for our students. If we do not properly introduce them to this technology, I feel we are doing them a great disservice.

**Reflection**

**In the beginning of the semester I felt that it was absolutely important to use technology in the classroom, but I didn’t fully understand the why and the how. Being an older student I was taught using more traditional methods. I felt, *why do we have to have all the bells and whistles to teach today’s students*, but now I realize why. Today the world changes so quickly and technology no longer changes generationally, but yearly. If we do not prepare our students by teaching them to use computer skills, multi-media presentation software, and classroom technology they will be ill prepared and uncomfortable when presented with it in real world situations.**

**So after getting over my initial misjudgments’ on the *why* to use technology in the classroom; it was necessary I become better practiced in the *how* of using technology in the classroom. This class opened my eyes to technology that can be fun and educational. Voki’s can be used for students to give presentations with. Virtual field trips would be excellent in a History classroom; each student could go to a museum’s virtual visit or website and do a report on an aspect of colonial life all without having to leave their seat. Students can use the smart board in class and turn a math lesson on division into fishing game. Wikis are FANTASTIC, I definitely want to have one in my classroom if possible. I feel students would enjoy any assignment if they are able to be creative when expressing their findings on their “own page”. Whichever I use I know am better prepared and a more confident teacher of technology.**